

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JUNE 1, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:** Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman; Susan Marks; Christopher (Kip) Hall; Gerald Nielsen; E. Reilly Tierney (7:08)

**STAFF:** Karl Kilduff, Administrative Office

**OTHERS:** Marc McEwan, Darien Fire Department/EMS; Tom Bell, Darien Harbor Master, Walter Casey, Darien Resident

**CALL TO ORDER**

The First Selectman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**PRESENTATION on the Status of the Emergency Operation Plan Update**

Mr. McEwan introduced a consultant from Witt and O'Brien who presented an update on the Emergency Operation Plan. The consultant reported he had been working with the town on utilizing current FEMA and national response standards. The report will include analysis of the 15 Emergency Support Functions, as per State and National Standards. The report will be finalized in August and should be presented in September.

**REPORT from Harbor Master on Darien Harbor Depth Survey**

Mr. Bell reported the following:

- Based on reports of the most recent Depth Survey (available at Town Hall) the Harbor will not have to be dredged.
- He is concerned about the limitations of the town boat ramp, which is improperly aligned, making it pesky for boat launchers, and can only be fully utilized during high tide. He cited it might hamper emergency evacuation. As it is not solely the jurisdiction of the Harbor Master he is hoping for the cooperation of the Darien Boat Club in fixing the ramp. It was suggested he share his concern with the Parks & Recreation Commission and he agreed to do so.
- He said there were 284 mooring holders at present in the town harbor, with 85 on the waiting list facing a 3-5 year wait. He said Zeigler's Cove was also full with 50 on the wait list facing a multi-decade wait. He said moorings were granted based on position on the wait list as well as boat size.
- He is concerned about the issue of speeding in the Harbor and said when he was out with his family this past weekend he counted 10.5 violators of the "no-wake" zone. He said, in part, this was attributed to confusing positioning of the harbor marker buoys. He advised the buoys be repositioned with clear signage to be more visible to boaters. He said once the clearer markers were in place, then the rules should be strictly enforced. It was suggested that he share this information with the local boat clubs, and he said he had

done so. It was also suggested more signage be posted on piers, docks, ramps and the like to ensure compliance, and he agreed.

He said as soon as the budget was in place, July 1<sup>st</sup>, he would be ready to replace and reposition the buoys in a timely manner. He also said the issue of who owns the permits on the buoys should also be addressed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Casey, Darien Resident, observed that the sign on the Selectmen's dais--"Board of **Selectman**--" should perhaps be corrected to read-- "Board of **Selectmen**."

### **FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

The First Selectman reported Kate Buch, Darien Director of Finance, has received, as she does each year, the Government Finance Officers' Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The First Selectman said the Darien VFW Post 6933 is now the substitute sponsor for this year's July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. The First Selectman said on June 9<sup>th</sup> the Planning and Zoning Commission would be meeting at 8pm to discuss infrastructure related issues for the Town Plan Update, and asked for feedback as well as encouraged all to attend the meeting.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Kilduff reported the parking study is ongoing. The survey for downtown parking users has been put together and would be available on the website as well as passed out to commuters, efforts are ongoing to increase awareness of the survey. The energy efficiency improvements have been completed in Town Hall and Public Works, the Police Department will be started shortly. The final permits are working through the DEEP for the upper pond project and plans are on target. At the next meeting a contractor will talk about street light conversion from standard lighting to LED. There was some discussion of parking permits and slower than expected commuter response. The First Selectman spoke in favor of the street light conversion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a)Discuss Review of EMS by Consultant**

Mr. Kilduff cited a letter (as included on the next two pages) received by the EMS Consultant withdrawing from the Darien EMS study.



May 18, 2015

Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman  
Karl Kilduff, Town Manager  
Town of Darien  
2 Renshaw Road  
Darien CT 06820

Dear Jayme,

I regret to inform you that The Holdsworth Group must withdraw from the consulting project currently underway evaluating the paramedic portion of your EMS system.

As we have progressed through the data gathering and the preliminary analysis stage, it has become increasingly clear that information put forth from multiple parties places us in an untenable position from which to render an objective report that will allow you to make a clear decision on a course of action. This will result in a waste of taxpayer funds. We will be refunding your initial payment in full within the next 30 days and will destroy all data provided to us.

What we have discovered is that you appear to have one of the best BLS EMS systems in the State and that the degrees to which the Post staffs ambulances, maintains response times and serves the community is remarkable.

Paramedic service also appears to be delivered, most of the time, in a reasonable time period. There are instances where the response times are longer than the 'nationally accepted' and desired 9-12 minutes, however our analysis did not get deep enough to determine if it was the first call or the second or third.

There is also unclear data about the time it takes from original 911 answered by Darien PD, to the PD's handoff to CMED, to the dispatch of a medic and the medic's ultimate arrival. This data exists, but the analysis of it is a time-consuming manual process that was not accounted for in the project budget.

It appears that reported response times may actually be 1-2 minutes longer based on this handoff time. This should be better investigated and shortened if possible. Also, you should re-sign and tighten your contract with a paramedic provider and hold them to response times agreed upon.

We cannot render an opinion about the need for a dedicated paramedic. While the response times are adequate, and typically within the 8-12 minute (avg. 9.5 minute -published time) generally accepted response times for ALS in a tiered system such as yours, the residents may wish to entertain paying for a dedicated unit to be stationed in Town more as a peace-of-mind expense.

BLS/transport units are needed on 100% of the calls, ALS is only required on about 33% of the calls. Having a unit in Town, utilized correctly through triage and dispatch protocols, might save 1-2 minutes on the first response but with the level of BLS care provided by the Post, this is not outcome significant for most (95% plus) of patients.

Our initial review of your Town's EMS plan reveals little that needs to be changed or updated other than the paramedic agreement. It is one of the more comprehensive plans we have seen.

Thank you for originally engaging with The Holdsworth Group, I am sorry we cannot effectively complete the project for you. This is only the second project in 27 years that we were unable to finish.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Holdsworth', written in a cursive style.

Robert L. Holdsworth,  
President

Mr. Kilduff noted the a point of concern in the letter was the time between when the call comes into the Police Department and the Department's hand-off to CMED dispatch. The current agreement between Post-53 and SEMS needs to be updated—Post-53 is in the process of this update. The First Selectman noted as a result of these concerns there would be upcoming internal meetings with the Police Department regarding dispatch and with Post-53 about the SEMS update. The First Selectman also said as the consulting company was not able to complete the study, it would not be collecting a fee from the Town.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Casey asked if the letter from the consultants would be made public. The First Selectman said yes, it would (*as attached in the previous pages*).

### **NEW BUSINESS (cont.)**

The First Selectman noted the letter stated that Darien had one of the “best BLS EMS” systems in the State and response time was “remarkable.” There was some discussion as to why the consultants were unable to complete the study, whether the Darien EMS was up to State standards, and had “best practice” systems in place, and whether or not to re-submit a RFP for another possible analysis. It was determined the Darien EMS was all set with the State in terms of filing approved plans. It was mentioned that the consultants could not answer the question if Darien needed dedicated paramedics. There were some concerns expressed on whether another consultant could actually be found to complete the Darien EMS Study. It was suggested another RFP request could just have a narrower scope and just address the issue of dedicated paramedics.

- \*\* MS. MARKS MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN INSTRUCT THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO REISSUE AN RFP ANALYZING THE NEED FOR THE TOWN OF DARIEN TO HIRE DEDICATED PARAMEDICS.**
- \*\* MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED 4 IN FAVOR AND 1 AGAINST (FIRST SELECTMAN STEVENSON)**

Ms. Marks said if this final attempt to get an EMS study completed failed she would not support any additional studies.

### **b) Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee**

The First Selectman, asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee to the Agenda.

- \*\* MS. MARKS MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD A DISCUSSION OF THE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**
- \*\* MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**



The First Selectman said she had been speaking to Frank Adelman, RTM and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair, and it seems there has not been an outpouring of RTM volunteers to serve on the Committee. To that end the First Selectman advised she would like to change the second paragraph of the document establishing the committee and add the words “should ideally” to modify representative requirements. Further, the sentence “There shall be no more than 2 representatives per district,” should be deleted.

**\*\* MR. HALL MOVED TO AMEND THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THE CHARGE OF THE PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

The Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee shall be comprised of 7 members and **should ideally** include representatives from the following entities: RTM Planning Zoning and Housing Committee, RTM Public Health and Safety Committee, RTM Public Works Committee, RTM Finance and Budget Committee, RTM Education Committee and 2 at large non-RTM members. Ex-officio members shall include, when needed, the First Selectman and representatives of the Darien Police Department, Public Works Department and Planning and Zoning Department.

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **APPOINTMENT/RE-APPOINTMENT**

**Consider and take action on the following appointments:**

- a) Mary Louise Morgan to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a 3-year term beginning April 1, 2014 and expiring on March 31, 2017
- b) Dennis Conetta to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2015 and expiring on March 31, 2018.
- c) Liz Geiger as an Alternate to the Architectural Review Board for a 4-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2019.

**\*\* MR. TIERNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF: MARY LOUISE MORGAN TO THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2014 AND EXPIRING ON MARCH 31, 2017; DENNIS CONETTA TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON APRIL 1, 2015 AND EXPIRING ON MARCH 31, 2018; AND LIZ GEIGER AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD FOR A 4-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2015 AND EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2019.**

**\*\* MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Consider and take action on the following re-appointment:**

- a) Erika Morris to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2015 and expiring on March 31, 2018.

- \*\* MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ERIKA MORRIS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON APRIL 1, 2015 AND EXPIRING ON MARCH 31, 2018.**
- \*\* MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Mr. Tierney said he would like to add discussion of the heating retrofit of 35 Leroy. He would like to hear an update on the full cost of the retrofit project.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Special Meeting of May 18, 2015**

- \*\* MR. NEILSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 18, 2015.**
- \*\* MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Regular Meeting of May 18, 2015**

- \*\* MR. TIERNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 18, 2015.**
- \*\* MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MS. MARKS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MR. HALL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

A. Lund  
Telesco Secretarial Services